

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 OPR-02 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 FDRE-00 HEW-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01

RSC-01 SCA-01 SCSE-00 USIA-15 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /127 W

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P 291609Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7658

UNCLAS MEXICO 6391

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH/CASC/MX

SUBJECT: DEATH TOLL RISES IN MEXICAN EARTHQUAKE DISASTER

REF: MEXICO 6390

1. OFFICIAL GOM STATISTICS, SUPPORTED BY THE MEXICAN RED CROSS, NOW SHOW AT LEAST 400 PERSONS DEAD AND SOME 800 INJURED IN THE WAKE OF INTENSE OSCILLATORY EARTHQUAKE AFFECTING 28 CITIES AND TOWNS IN THE AREA OF SERDAN AND ORIZABA, BETWEEN 160-200 MILES EAST SOUTHEAST OF MEXICO CITY, NEAR THE PUEBLA-VERACRUZ STATE LINE. TWO TOWNS WERE VIRTUALLY DESTROYED, WHILE THE REMAINING 26 SUFFERED VARYING DEGREES OF DAMAGE. THE QUAKE HIT IN AN AREA ALREADY AFFECTED BY HURRICANE BRENDA, WHICH HAD LEFT THOUSAND HOMELESS. NUMBER OF HOMELESS NOW CANNOT EVEN BE ESTIMATED.

2. MEXICAN PRESS ANNOUNCES PRESIDENTE ECHEVERRIA PLANS PERSONAL TRIP TO SERDAN-ORIZABA AREA TODAY (AUGUST 29) TO INSPECT DAMAGE AND DIRECT RELIEF EFFORTS. PRESS CONTAINS MANY REPORTS OF CHURCHES, HOSPITALS, APARTMENT BUILDINGS, AND THOUSANDS OF ADOBE HOMES BELONGING TO POOR DESTROYED. RED CROSS REPORTS MORE THAN 100 PERSONS DIED IN ONE APARTMENT BUILDING IN ORIZABA, NEAR EPICENTER OF QUAKE.

3. MEXICAN SEISMOLOGISTS REPORT THAT QUAKE OCCURRED ALONG WELL-KNOWN ZACAMOBXO FAULT, WHICH LIES ALONG EAST-WEST AXIS
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AND RUNS UNDER ORIZABA PEAK. THEY SAY THAT SHIFTS IN EARTH'S

CRUST HAVE BEEN NOTED ALONG THIS FAULT FOR PAST TWO CENTURIES.

4. EMBASSY HAS NOT TURNED UP ANY INSTANCES OF INJURY OR
DEATH OF AMCITS, OR DAMAGE TO THEIR PROPERTY.

MCBRIDE

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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